

Tmetothrips subapterus

Distinguishing features

Both sexes micropterous, female sometimes fully winged. Body and femora dark brown, tibiae, tarsi and antennal segments III–IV yellowish-brown, fore wings shaded. Antennae 8-segmented, III–IV each with forked sense cone. Head with 2 pairs of ocellar setae, pair III arising close together within ocellar triangle, shorter than distance between compound eyes; maxillary palps 3-segmented. Pronotum weakly reticulate with about 12 discal setae, with 2 pairs of prominent posteroangular setae, inner pair shorter than outer. Microptera with meso- and metanota strongly transverse, fore wing lobe scarcely 60 microns long; metanotal median setae and campaniform sensilla on posterior half of this sclerite; mesothoracic furca with spinula. Abdominal tergites III–VII with transverse row of 6 long setae, campaniform sensilla near to posterior margin; tergites with narrow craspedum, also on VIII; IX with 2 pairs of campaniform sensilla, X with complete split. Sternites without discal setae, posterior margins each with 5-lobed craspedum. Male sternites III–VII with transverse pore plate; tergite IX with two pairs of short stout setae medially.

Related species

Only one species is placed in *Tmetothrips*, and relationships of this genus are not clear since most available character states are associated with its flightless, micropterous, condition.

Biological data

Feeding and breeding on the leaves of species of *Cerastium* and *Stellaria* [Caryophyllaceae], and *Galium* [Rubiaceae].

Distribution data

Locally common in south east England and also Norfolk (with one historical record from Durham: see Morison, 1932) (Mound *et al.*, 1976). Widespread, but only locally common, across parts of Scandinavia (Gertsson, 2015), central and eastern Europe. This species has been introduced into North America (Hoebeke & Wheeler, 1983).

Family name

THRIPIDAE - THRIPINAE

Species name

Tmetothrips subapterus (Haliday)

Original name and synonyms

Thrips subaptera Haliday, 1836: 450

Pachythrips phaeoptera Schille, 1912: 236

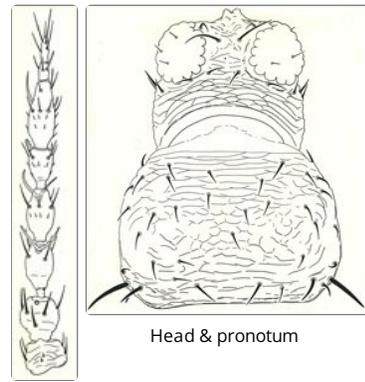
References

Gertsson C-A (2015) An annotated checklist of Thysanoptera (thrips) from the Nordic countries. *Entomologisk Tidskrift* 136 (4): 185–198.

Hoebeke ER & Wheeler AG (1983) Exotic insects reported new to northeastern United States and eastern Canada since 1970. *Journal of the New York Entomological Society* 91: 193–222.

Morison GD (1932) Observations and records for some Thysanoptera from Great Britain. VI. *Tmetothrips subapterus* (Hal.) and *Platythrips tunicatus* (Hal.). *Entomologist's Monthly Magazine* 68: 33–37.

Mound LA, Morison GD, Pitkin BR & Palmer JM (1976) Thysanoptera. *Handbooks for the Identification of British Insects* 1 (11): 1–79.

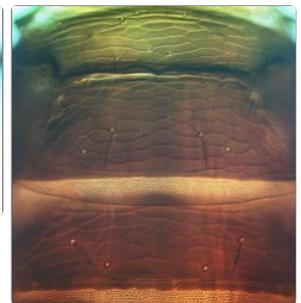


Head & pronotum

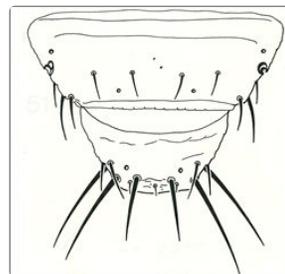
Antenna



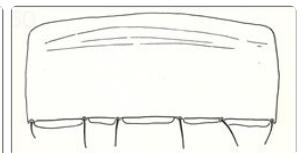
Pronotum



Meso & metanota and tergite I



Tergites VIII-IX



Sternite IV